

REMARKS

Claims 23-25, 27-35, and 45-66 are currently pending in the Application. Claims 45-50 are allowed, Claims 23-25, 30-35, and 51-66 are rejected, and Claims 27-29 are objected to but may be allowable if amended. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's withdrawal of the Final Office Action issued on April 10, 2002.

Claims 23-25 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moslehi et al. (United States Patent 5,217,559). Claims 31-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moslehi et al. in view of Henley et al. (United States Patent 6,207,005). Claim 51 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hideaki et al. (JP 8-64763). Claims 52-66 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hideaki et al. in view of Moslehi et al. Claims 45-50 are allowed. Claims 27-29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the notification of the allowable subject matter of Claims 45-50.

Objections to Claims 27-29

Applicants have amended Claim 27 herein to incorporate the subject matter of independent Claim 23 from which it depends. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claim 27 would be allowable in such form.

Claims 28 and 29 depend from amended Claim 27, which is allowable. Therefore, Claims 28 and 29 are also allowable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 23-25 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moslehi et al. (United States Patent 5,217,559). Claim 23 is canceled herein without prejudice. Claims 24, 25, and 30 are amended herein to depend from amended independent

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Claim 27, which is allowable in its amended form as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 24, 25, and 30, are allowable over the obviousness rejection based on Moslehi et al. as dependent claims of an allowable independent claim. *See, In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988)(stating that if an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious); *see also*, M.P.E.P. § 2143.03.

Claims 31-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moslehi et al. in view of Henley et al. Claim 31 is amended herein to depend from allowable, amended independent Claim 27. As a dependent claim of a nonobvious independent claim, Claim 31 is allowable. *See, In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *see also*, M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Claims 32-35 depend from Claim 31. As dependent claims of a nonobvious claim, Claims 32-35 are also allowable over the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection.

Claim 51 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hideaki et al. (JP 8-64763). Claim 51 is cancelled without prejudice herein.

Claims 52-66 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hideaki et al. in view of Moslehi et al. Claims 52-54, 56, 57, and 59-66 are cancelled without prejudice herein. Claims 55 and 58 are amended herein to depend from allowable, amended, independent Claim 27. As dependent claims of a nonobvious independent claim, Claims 55 and 58 are also allowable over the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection. *See, In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988)(stating that if an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious); *see also*, M.P.E.P. § 2143.03.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Claims 24, 25, 27-35, 55, and 58 are allowable over the outstanding objections and rejections.

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CONCLUSION

The concerns of the Examiner addressed in full, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance forthwith. The Examiner is encouraged to direct any questions regarding the foregoing to the undersigned, who may be reached at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully requested,



Devin R. Jensen
Registration No. 44,805



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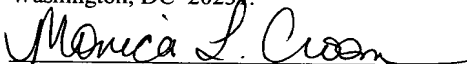
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Monica L. Croom